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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-08

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DRAFTED BY EUR:WHLUERS
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS
EUR/EE - CARL SCHMIDT
EUR/SOV - WILLIAM EDGAR
H - THOMAS WESTON
----------020646 151533Z /53
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039523

GENEVA - FOR SALT DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:RO, HU, UR, PL

SUBJECT: SENATOR STEVENSON'S TRIP TO EASTERN EUROPE

1. ON FEBRUARY 3 ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST, ACCOMPANIED BY LUERS, ANDREWS (EE) AND EDGAR (SOV), CALLED ON SENATOR ADLAI STEVENSON TO DE-BRIEF THE SENATOR ON HIS EASTERN EUROPEAN VISIT. STEVENSON EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE ON HIS TRIP. HE SAID HE HAD, IN PREPARATION FOR THIS CALL, READ ALL THE REPORTING FROM THE POSTS OF HIS TALKS WITH OFFICIALS AND OTHERS. HE WAS MOST IMPRESSED BY THE REPORTING AND WAS PERSUADED THAT, ASIDE
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FROM THE VALUE HE RECEIVED FROM THE TRIP, THAT THE DISCUSSIONS HAD MADE A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR SUBSTANTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA. HE WAS MOST COMPLIMENTARY TO THE STAFFS OF THE EMBASSIES FOR THEIR EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF AND PARTICULARLY FOR THEIR SUBSTANTIVE FOLLOW-UP.

2. ON HUNGARY THE SENATOR WAS CLEARLY PLEASED TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION RETURNING THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN. AFTER

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BEING BRIEFED ON CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HUNGARIANS ON A TRADE AGREEMENT AND OUR PLANS TO PROPOSE MFN FOR HUNGARY, HE EXPRESSED STRONG SUPPORT AND INDICATED HE MIGHT BE WILLING TO RECEIVE SOME TESTIMONY DURING HIS HEARINGS

ON EXIM BANK REGARDING POSSIBLE FUTURE LOANS TO HUNGARY. HE WAS AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT HUNGARY WAS NOT NOW SEEKING EXIM BANK FINANCING.

3. ON ROMANIA THE SENATOR SAID HE ENJOYED THE VISIT. HE SAID THERE SEEMED TO BE A MISPERCEPTION IN WASHINGTON THAT ROMANIA WAS THE SECOND MOST LIBERAL COUNTRY AFTER POLAND. HE THOUGHT THIS STEMMED FROM THE FACT THAT ROMANIA HAD SUBSTANTIAL JEWISH IMMIGRATION AFTER WORLD WAR II, THAT IT CONTINUED TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL AFTER THE 1967 WAR, AND THAT ITS FOREIGN POLICY WAS PERCEIVED TO BE MORE INDEPENDENT OF MOSCOW. INTERNALLY, HOWEVER, HE SENSED THAT ROMANIA WAS NOT AS LIBERAL AS HUNGARY AND POLAND. THE SENATOR REPORTED THAT THE ROMANIANS WERE SHOWING GROWING SENSI-TIVITY ABOUT THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. THEY POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT MONDALE HAD VISITED YUGOSLAVIA, THE PRESIDENT HAD VISITED POLAND, THE CROWN WAS RETURNED TO HUNGARY BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE BUT NO ONE HAD COME
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TO ROMANIA. THE SENATOR WAS INFORMED THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THIS FEELING AND THAT CEAUSESCU'S VISIT IN APRIL SHOULD HELP TO DISPEL ANY CONCERN OF DOWNGRADING OF OUR RELATION-SHIP WITH ROMANIA. STEVENSON SAID THAT PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT GIOSAN, WHO HAD BEEN HIS HOST, EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES, HEADING A ROMANIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION. THE SENATOR PROMISED TO DO WHAT HE COULD IN THIS REGARD, ALTHOUGH HE DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE AS ELABORATE ARRANGEMENTS AS HAD BEEN PUT TOGETHER FOR THE RECENT SOVIET PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AGREED TO LOOK INTO SOME TYPE OF VISIT FROM GIOSAN THAT MIGHT BE PROPOSED DURING THE CEAUSESCU VISIT THAT WOULD BE SOMEWHAT SHORT OF A FORMAL PARLIAMENTAR VISIT, BUT SATISFY THE ROMANIAN DESIRES.

4. ON THE SOVIET UNION THE SENATOR FELT HE HAD SOME VERY WORTHWHILE DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES -- TRADE, SALT AND ENERGY. HE MADE PARTICULAR NOTE OF THE REPORTING FROM EMBASSY MOSCOW AND FELT THAT THE SOVIETS HAD MADE PARTICULAR EFFORT TO MAKE HIS VISIT SUCCESSFUL. MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION WITH THE SENATOR CONCERNED HIS THINKING NOW REGARDING THE HEARINGS FOR EXIM BANK LEGISLATION AND ON SALT. ON TRADE AND EXIM BANK LEGISLATION WE WILL BE REPORTING SEPARATELY TO MOSCOW. ON THE SALT QUESTION THE SENATOR EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH HIS TALKS BOTH IN MOSCOW AND IN GENEVA WITH AMBASSADOR EARLE. THE SENATOR SAID THAT HE THINKS THE ISSUE HAS BEEN POLARIZED

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UNNECESSARILY. HE IS CONSIDERING MAKING SOME PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE A SALT AGREEMENT IS REACHED DISCUSSING THE PROBLEMS THAT WOULD ACCRUE IF THERE WERE

NOT A SALT II AGREEMENT. HE SAID HE WOULD BE GIVING HIS VIEWS IN MORE DETAIL AT A LATER DATE.

5. IN POLAND THE SENATOR SAID HE TALKED A GOOD DEAL ABOUT IMF MEMBERSHIP AND HIS BELIEF THAT THE POLES COULD DEAL
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MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AS IMF MEMBERS. HE INDICATED WHY HE THOUGHT THE POLES WERE HESITANT ON IMF MEMBERSHIP. THE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS BROUGHT THE SENATOR UP TO DATE ON THE POLISH REQUEST TO CEMA FOR A DISCUSSION OF POLAND'S ENTRY INTO IMF.

6. THE SENATOR WAS CLEARLY PLEASED BY THE ENTIRE PROGRAM FOR EASTERN EUROPE AND WE THINK THE TRIP WAS BENEFICIAL IN GIVING THE SENATOR SOME PARTICULAR INSIGHTS INTO THE CO;UNTRIES AND INTO THE PROBLEMS OF US POLICY TOWARD THE REGION. DEPARTMENT COMMENDS THE BACK-UP SUPPLIED BY THE EMBASSIES FOR THIS TRIP AND JOINS THE SENATOR IN EXPRESSING OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCELLENT REPORTING AND SUB-STANTIVE FOLLOW-UP THAT WAS GENERATED BY THE VISIT. VANCE

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